ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES.

Sep. 15.

My Baby.

I have had a letter from Madge who is in a great state of excitement preparatory to Italy. I want to know if she can read your letters there. I have given her your address at Venice & you may hear from her. But she is going to Florence & probably on to Perugia & I imagine she will not like to meet her & perhaps even much want to. She will be C/o Mrs Ross. Poggio Sherardo. Via Settignanese Florence. after the 23d. I havent heard from you for some time it seems to me. In fact I see I praised you too soon. I hope however that you would let me know if either of you were ill as I cant help fearing you may be in this heat. Life is only tolerable in that understanding as you ought to know. It is now the most lovely autumn weather here. Duncan has just gone having stayed for 10 days. I Adeane goes today. He hasnt seen & have enjoyed [illegible] much. I is very glad to be in the country. [illegible] Duncan may begin abroad again later but I have very valuable Duncan of course hasnt finished any of his pictures for the Grafton. Roger comes today I

then we have Saxon, Norton & Oliver Strachey!
What a party - I daresay you think yourselves
well out of it. But Clive is very perfectly happy
here & it is very nice. He has been given
the complete control of the English section at
the Grafton & is very busy getting pictures out
at Islington, etc. I am just beginning to do a little
gardening. Sydney did mine & my efforts are
impeded by Rob who digs up all I plant.
However I hope I have some flowers next
year. Hilly's visit was quite successful
though she & Clive did not have all the
tête à têtes they had hoped for. She is
very nice & amusing. The worst of her is
an unexpected moral sense which crops
up suddenly & is rather tiresome.
I must stop as Clive is going to
leave & will post this. So goodbye
& mind you write
Yours V.

T. PARSONS 3.2.'73

1912

ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES. ~~Oct~~ Sep. 26

My Billy.

At-last- a letter from you from world
famed the Palace - It is a stuffy abode isn't it?
It fills me with amazement that you should
have got through your intended princess safely
so far. But I suppose every one is not as bad
as that as I am. Whenever you're not
out of the wood yet & I quite expect to
hear of you both safely ill at Ravenna. I
should very much like to go there so do
send for me to nurse you..

I am just off to London to take my
pictures to the Grafton & help unto them.
hanging there & you are hearing the story
of this letter because my watch stopped
& I got up ½ an hour too early for the
early train. We came back on Friday
when [illegible] came. & for the week end
we had have Ethel, Beatrice & Roger.

I suppose we shall go back to London at
about the same time that you do.
The Stracheys & Norton Lamb had taken (though
not Norton I thought) they were going to stay for
another. & he himself was going to be abroad
most of the winter. No there seemed no use
asking him about Brunswick. I have written
to the Inner & Middle Temple people & I may
hear from them soon. Norton was the same
as ever. only with a large double chin. But
he told me he was alarmed about his health
as he had been getting so terribly stout lately.
I am getting absorbed in the prospect of a
garden here & have studied Robinson thoroughly
I'm afraid though there won't be any flowers
here by the time you come here again. as
I shant have time before we go & the plants
are better not put in just yet. so you
will only see bare beds. But I see it will
be entrancingly lovely. I have given up all
belief I ever had in your affection.
Yours V. B

(58)

46 Gordon Sq. (Monday) Dec 23 1912

My Billy.

After all, here is a Christmas present from me! I hope you won't think it too aesthetic. Roger brought me some slips to choose from. I thought this pretty & have actually with my own hands made you a bag of it! So at any rate you must be touched by that. I am going to smell myself one like it.

I have been up today for the first time although my Horsed affairs haven't finished but I don't think it makes any odds - I suppose I shall go to Asheham on Friday or Sat.

I haven't yet had the energy
even to contemplate any other
arrangements - as I haven't got
a car/taker either perhaps I won't
even get to Ashcham then.
Clive went to Scand this
morning. I hope I shall hear
from you soon. I have no
news of course as everyone
seems to be away or in-
volved in Christmas. What
a beastly time of year it
is. You heard, didn't you, that
Alice is enceinte? The only
piece of gossip.

Yours
B.

(59) (wed) (1913)

ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES.

Jan 22nd

My Billy,
I'm afraid you will think us very tiresome for not being able to have you on Sunday night - but as it is Adrian wants to come - but things have fallen out unluckily. If I had known that there was a chance of your coming I would have kept it open. I hope we shall soon get this leave it free for you - for really the weather has been so appalling & I am so much better that it seems rather absurd to go on staying out of London. It gets so damp & gloomy here after a week or so of almost constant rain that I don't think it does me much good. & I'm beginning to feel very much out of all your London amusements. The weather at any rate doesn't so much matter there. I think I shall come upon Friday & come down again, perhaps with you, on Saturday.

I can't send you back the amazing picture of Mrs Cole till I have some large envelopes. Perhaps I may see will go into Lewes tomorrow & get some - when I can also return Leonard's MS.

I hope he'll write & tell me what Savage says. As you say I expect you'll have to make up your minds for yourselves but you'd better get all the advice you can. Would you like me when I see Craig to ask him anything further - such as whether he thinks that by leading a special kind of life for a time you could reduce the risk to very little? After all, it's a question of how much you run. In everyone runs some in having a baby - but I wouldn't run a really appreciable risk of another bad breakdown or even of getting your nerves into a permanently worse state - for if you did you couldn't much enjoy the baby when it came - However I expect on the whole by waiting a bit & being careful enough you could have one with very little risk - only find out first just how you can make the risk least. I wish I knew what Jean had said - for she certainly told me she thought it very likely that a baby would be very good for you:

I am painting quite a lot now which is a blessing. Why on earth are you going to see Aunt Minna again?

Yours

B.

? 26 Jan 1913

ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES. Sunday

My Billy.
This is a belated many happy returns letter. unaccompanied by a present I regret to say. I am sorry that you have had so trying a time with Studland. Do find me from Mrs S. all about the Titanic. He wrote a short time ago to say he was going away for a year. but I hope you'll just see him before he goes. Adrian & Molly are here & we have had an amusing account of the party from him. Molly is really very nice I think & I am beginning to find her much easier to get on with than I used to. Also I think she is really fond of Clive which is rather a blessing & relief from the atmosphere I am accustomed to! I hadn't meant to have Adrian here with her as I thought we should get more gossip out of her alone. but they seem to get on quite well. I have decided to come up to London on Thursday & stay one or possibly two nights as I find that the Grafton shuts on Friday. Shall you

come here for next Sunday? I think Roger is coming. But that wouldn't matter. I want to see you & hear what Savage may have said I shouldn't worry about the baby question. One can never really settle these matters beforehand. They always settle themselves eventually. at least they have for me so far. generally accidentally. However of course you must think about it - but don't worry for anything may turn up. I wonder why Leonard has gradually come to think child bearing so dangerous.

Today actually started fine but has been raining of course - evidently no fine weather comes today. I am much happier now I can do some painting. in fact I see that this would be the way of working. I have done more real work here in a few days, than one often does in weeks in London.

Yours V.B.

T. PARSONS 3.2.23